



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: May 27, 2016

To: Thomas J. Bonfield – City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson – Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams – Director of Public Works

Subject: Response to Citizen Requests to Appear re: Maintenance of unpaved portion of Lednum

The Department of Public Works (DPW) most recently made contact with Ms. Craft regarding the issue of street maintenance needs on the privately owned segment of Lednum St. on Friday, May 20, 2016, The DPW reminded Ms. Craft of our previous discussions about the unpaved segment of Lednum St. that she is concerned with, and reiterated that the City of Durham (City) does not have ownership or maintenance responsibility for the unpaved portion of Lednum St. which is in front of her home. The DPW provided a map that shows that the City's maintenance responsibility ends at the intersection of Lednum and Murray St.

The Street Maintenance division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) incorrectly performed maintenance the segment of Lednum St. in May 2013 due to an error on the part of one of our maintenance employees. At that time the DPW explained that her segment of Lednum is privately owned and maintained and that any additional maintenance of this section of unpaved street would be the responsibility of the property owners whose properties front this section of Lednum.

In addition, our records show that Ms. Craft's property was connected to City water and sewer in 1998. The sewer main was installed in this section of Lednum in 1998 under the Enabling Act Authority of the City Council due to a failed septic on her property. The Right-of-Way was platted in 1926 (PB 6A-50, "Property of W.P. Sneed and W.H. Woods), but the street was never built to meet City standards and was therefore never accepted for City maintenance. The DPW has no knowledge or documentation which indicates that the City would assume responsibility for maintaining this section of Lednum St. upon completion of the water and sewer connections.

The DPW has provided Ms. Craft with the opportunity to provide any type of formal documentation which shows that the City committed to maintaining this privately owned section of Lednum. If such documentation was provided the DPW will review and revisit this issue with the City Manager's Office.